



SILICON VALLEY
CHAPTER

The Working Papers

Chapter Newsletter

Advancing Government Accountability

VOLUME XXXVII, ISSUE 1

September 2009

AGA National Web Site
www.agacgfm.org

Ethics in Government

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MEETING

September 16, 2009
Wednesday

Topic: Ethics in
government

Speaker:

Jerry Gandara, JD, MBA
Contracting Attorney
US defense Contract
Management Agency

Time: 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

1 hour CPE credit

Meeting Place: Biltmore
Hotel, 2151 Laurelwood
Rd, Santa Clara, CA
95054
(408) 988-8411
www.hotelbiltmore.com

(Off Freeway 101 & Montague
Expressway

See page 15 to register



At this month's Professional Development Meeting, **Jerry Gandara, JD, MBA**, will talk on Ethics in Government. Jerry has over twenty years working with the federal government, currently with US Defense Contract Management Agency as Contracting Officer/Attorney. He will share with us his experience related to ethics in the federal government.

Jerry received a bachelor degree from the University of Nebraska and went to a Tour of Duty in Vietnam for 2 years as Commander of the Medical Services Corps. In 1969, Jerry returned from the duty and continued on in the military reserve with the rank of Captain. Thereafter, he went to Stanford University's Medical School for his PHD Molecular Physiology. While working at Stanford Medical Dialysis Center, Jerry attended Stanford University's Law School and graduated in 1981. For over two years, he taught at Cal State Hayward. He received a Master in Taxation from Golden Gate University, Master of Business Administration from San Jose State University, Master of Procurement from University of Phoenix and currently attending University of Santa Clara for Master of Theology.

Jerry is a member of AGA since 1995 and AGA Silicon Valley Chapter president. He is also AGA's Past Regional Vice President for California and is a member of AGA Ethics Board.

The Association of Government Accountants believes that its members first and foremost serve the public interest in accordance with the highest ethical principles. This Code of Ethics is both a standard of behavior to aspire to and a guide for making ethical decisions. The code contains specific language that sets the minimum expected levels of behavior. Violators are subject to disciplinary action. However, the code is not simply a set of rules. It also creates an expectation that the Association's members will do the right thing in any given situation.

Ethics ultimately is a matter of personal responsibility. Consistently making ethically correct decisions is not easy. It

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Grace S. Ragni, CGFM, CPA, CISA, CIA



Like most, if not all, local and state governments, it's the end of the fiscal year again. (I say this every year.) It seems as if it was no too long ago that we just completed our previous year's financial statements (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) and now, we are again in the process of completing one. (This, too, I say every year.) Accounting may be deemed by some of us as a routine endeavor. However, new laws, standards, regulations and requirements affecting the accounting profession put a fallacy to this perception. Last June, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its guidance on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Our July audio conference provided insights and implementation perspectives of various individuals from OMB and key implementers from state and local government. We are also putting together a one-day conference on October 2 to reinforce the discussion on this topic. Details on this event will be announced in a separate flyer.

Another fallacy, I may say, about accounting is that it comprises of number-crunching, "boring" individuals. Not true. In fact, this could be easily proven wrong by officers and members of our chapter. Our chapter's plan includes several exciting social activities. One of them was the recent annual barbecue board meeting where it proved to be productive, and most importantly, fun and relaxing. This event was participated by spouses who were very involved and supportive. To this end, I owe my husband, **Victor Ragni**, a special mention for not simply providing the delicious barbecue, but also helping out in the grocery shopping (a chore which he does not particularly care for).

I am also pleased to welcome new officers to our chapter. **David Bullock, CPA**, Partner, Macias Gini & O'Connell, LLP, CPAs. We also welcome **Linda Hildebrandt**, Finance Manager for GE Homeland Protection, Inc, a subsidiary of GE. Linda will serve as our Chapter Secretary.

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From the National President

By: William A. (Billy) Morehead, Ph.D., CGFM, CPA, CPM



AGA @ 30,000 FEET

What a privilege it is to be serving as your National President, especially on AGA's 59th birthday! Congratulations to everyone who has had a hand in guiding our Association since its inception on Sept. 14, 1950. So far this year, it has been a real treat getting around to many chapters and visiting with you and participating in your educational and chapter events. Earlier this month, the Capitol Region RVP team, Section IV Senior VP, several others and I attended and spoke at the joint PDC held by the three West Virginia chapters. The highlight of the event was presenting the Beckley, WV Chapter with its official charter. What a GREAT day!

On the flight home, I turned my thoughts to writing this article. Looking out across the clouds, it hit me—AGA @ 30,000 Feet. The NEC and I serve you and lead AGA by setting policy, providing fiduciary oversight and ensuring that the executive director is managing the operational activities of the National Office. The NEC should function at the strategic and policy level and allow the executive director and National Office staff to carry out the association's day-to-day operations. We each have important roles and responsibilities, and we each reap rewarding benefits.

The AGA of today is not the same AGA I joined in 1986. Twenty years ago, AGA was essentially bankrupt—this was a huge wake-up call for our organization. We have come a long way since those days. Under the leadership of determined Past National Presidents, Past National Treasurers, many NEC members, three executive directors and an awesome National Office staff, we now are a part of a \$6.5 million nonprofit organization! AGA has evolved substantially over the past 20 years, and we are poised to make a significant impact on our nation's future through our focus on advancing government accountability.

As our organization has grown, so has the size of our National Office—and rightfully so. Throughout the year, I plan on using my *TOPICS* columns to highlight many things our staff do each day and the impact they make on AGA. Future articles will focus on various individuals and groups of staff and their respective roles as they provide service to our entire organization. Our National Office staff enhances AGA's ability to lead the way in advancing government accountability. I am grateful to and thankful for each staff member, and I am anxious to share with you the good things they are doing!

The underlying thread of this discussion is that your NEC is focusing on governance. A task force launched by **Immediate Past National President Sam Mok, CGFM**, studied the need for a governance committee. The task force recommended and the NEC approved and established a standing Governance Committee at its June 2009 meeting in New Orleans. Taking these efforts one step further, we have invited a governance expert, Dr. Richard Jung, to our September 2009 NEC meeting to provide NEC members and AGA staff directors with training regarding best practices in association governance.

If AGA is to honor its vision of being "the premier organization for advancing government accountability," then we must lead our organization with accountability and transparency both in fact and in appearance. We must keep our focus on governance and operations. Throughout this year the NEC will also work on updating our strategic plan and develop a self-evaluation tool to help us and future generations gauge our progress.

Much is going on! We are *Thinking Big! Acting Courageously! and Making a Difference!* A busy year is ahead of us! Join me as we continuously improve our AGA! - <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/governance/president.aspx>

AGA Silicon Valley Chapter Earns National Awards

Platinum Chapter Award, First Place Chapter Newsletter Award and First Place Chapter Web Site Award



Taken at the New Orleans 2009 PDC Award Presentation. Left: Jerry Gandara, Immediate Past Chapter President; William (Bill) Morehead, AGA National President; Grace S. Ragni, Chapter President & Alex Guiang, Chapter Newsletter Editor & Web Master.

Silicon Valley Chapter under the leadership of **Chapter President Grace S. Ragni** received a Platinum Chapter Award from AGA National at the 58th Annual Professional Development Conference & Exposition (PDC) Breakfast Award Event in New Orleans on June 24, 2009, which was witnessed by over 2,000 attendees from all over the nationwide and some other countries.

What does this AGA Platinum Award mean to Silicon Valley Chapter? Winning the AGA Platinum Chapter Recognition Award recognizes our chapter for operating the highest structure needed in maintaining and operating a well-rounded AGA chapter. At the beginning of the program year, AGA National sets up ranks of goals and objectives for all chapters to achieve and implement AGA's mission of government accountability and transparency that include the following programs: advancing government accountability, certification through the CGFM, education and research, and membership services. Other Chapter award categories are Bronze Chapter Designation, Silver Chapter Designation, and Gold Chapter Designation.

Last year, Silicon Valley Chapter has operated and met the highest criteria that a chapter can reach. With around 100 chapters nationwide, only few chapters have operated at this caliber

AGA Silicon Valley Chapter Earns National Awards

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to receive such highest award. This demonstrates that Silicon Valley Chapter is thriving. Our chapter has a small membership with small members in the Executive Board. Although, vacancies in the Executive Board have remained unfilled, the leadership, dedication and teamwork of each member of the Executive Board had managed our chapter to reach this highest award. Thank you to the leadership of our **Chapter President Grace S. Ragni, CGFM, CPA**, who is the Fiscal Resources Manager for Santa Clara Valley Transit Authority, and **Vinod Sharma, CPA**, President Elect, Controller/Treasurer for County of Santa Clara, and all the members of the Chapter Executive Board.

Our chapter also is proud to receive the 1st Place Award for both Chapter Newsletter and Web



Site in Group E Chapter Category at the PDC in New Orleans. All chapters that participated in the newsletter and web site contests were judged by impartial panel of past award winners using pre-determined criteria to recognize the hard work, creativity, and dedication of the chapter's communication coordinators.

Other chapters in California also received awards at the New Orleans PDC that include Inland Empire Chapter for the Platinum

Chapter Award and Los Angeles Chapter for the Gold Chapter Award. Congratulations to these two chapters in the south.

Ethics in Government (continued from page 1)

requires commitment and practice, which require first an awareness and then a motivation to act ethically. This code, and the Association as a whole, provides guidance and support to members.

The public should reasonably expect that those who serve government are trustworthy. By accepting the opportunity to serve, Association members must also recognize the obligation to be accountable, which includes:

- Becoming familiar with and abiding by the expectations, standards and rules of the position and seeking out necessary information to interpret and apply them.
- Accepting personal responsibility for the foreseeable consequences of actions and inaction.
- Taking into account the long-term interest of the government and its citizens.

On this basis, AGA has developed its Code of Ethics and the objectives, principles and interpretations that support the code. You can read the entire Code of Ethics by visiting - <http://www.agacgfm.org/about/codeofethics.aspx>.

Remembering GASB's Beginning

By: Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA
AGA Executive Director



The year: 1981. The place: a New York hotel. The impetus: bankruptcy and insolvency in some of America's largest cities, including Cleveland, Detroit and New York. The issue: the need for an independent accounting standards-setting board for state and local governments. At the time of the 1981 meeting, we'd been negotiating and deliberating the idea for what later became the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for two years, but the discussions had spanned more than a decade.

Thinking we had a deal in hand, I joined the late Frank Greathouse, the legendary director of state audit in Tennessee, at the New York meeting where we presented our case to the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF), expecting them to sign off on our plan for GASB. After our presentation, Russell Palmer, then the FAF chair, thanked us for coming and said they'd be in touch. To say we were disappointed by the lukewarm reception would be putting it mildly. Sure enough, two weeks later we received a letter stating FAF's position that jurisdiction over governmental entities should go to the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), which was charged with setting private sector entity accounting standards.

The government representatives argued that FASB had no standing to set accounting standards for governments because the U.S. Constitution states that the private sector can't set standards for the public sector.

Months later, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Organizational Committee held a series of hearings in Philadelphia to hear from the various interest groups and gauge their desire to form a GASB. The hearings attracted a huge crowd from government and the private sector, including FAF, FASB, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), the American Accounting Association (AAA), the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT) and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), for two days of contentious debate. The core group met again in the Detroit airport in May of 1982. With all the major players in the room, we attempted to determine what the consensus was from the hearings and what the next steps should be.

Don Kirk, then FASB chair, spoke first and indicated that his board was ready and willing to develop governmental accounting standards—provided the government people stayed out of the way and let FASB develop the standards. That was Kirk's take on the sentiments expressed in Philadelphia. Greathouse disagreed, arguing that the government representatives plainly said they wanted a GASB. As a heated debate ensued, FAF Chairman Palmer said very quietly, "This isn't the way to get anything done. The only thing that can happen now is that FAF needs to take this over and form a GASB under the direction of FAF." The statement brought GASB closer to a reality. Palmer and FAF understood that the government people were never going to give up, and it was time to take the best deal he could get by creating GASB under FAF.

FAF was expanded by three government sector trustees, and to protect the government's interests, two of the three had to approve the nomination of any GASB board member. Five years after GASB's formation in 1984, a new battle arose—once again over jurisdiction. Subjected to a "sunset review" of its first five years in 1989, a debate ensued over gray area entities—for instance, public versus private schools and hospitals and who would set standards for them. FAF initially gave jurisdiction for these entities to FASB. Government representatives objected under

Remembering GASB's Beginning

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the same grounds they had objected earlier—the private sector couldn't have authority over the public sector. The debate stirred national headlines and was covered by newspapers such as the Wall Street Journal. Ultimately, FAF gave in and indicated that GASB had jurisdiction over public sector entities while FASB had jurisdiction over private sector entities.

Twenty-five years later, the debate over jurisdiction has ended but the other pervasive issue plaguing GASB continues to be the lack of a permanent funding source. Now a \$7-million-a-year operation, GASB relies on contributions from the states and organizations such as AGA and GFOA. With the states grappling with ever-dwindling resources, this promises to remain a pressing issue for GASB going forward.

AGA salutes the Governmental Accounting Standards Board on its 25th anniversary. I take great pride in knowing that something we fought so hard to establish a quarter century ago continues to thrive today. We wish you continued success in the future. *(reproduction from JOURNAL OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT FALL, 2009)*

Registration Now Open for 2009-2010 AGA Government Finance Case Challenge



The best undergraduate accounting/financial management/business students in the country are invited to compete in the third annual Government Finance Case Challenge, sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

Student teams will collaboratively analyze and offer a written response to a case centered on how a U.S. city government implements a performance management system. The registration deadline is Friday, Oct. 2, 2009. All members of the two highest-scoring teams will receive a scholarship to attend AGA's National Leadership Conference, set for February of 2010 in Washington, D.C.

Teams will present their finalized solutions before a panel of federal/state/local government leaders, corporate partners and CFOs. The winning teams will be announced at the awards luncheon on the final day of the conference.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning team. Each student participant will receive a free one-year membership to AGA.

Students will compete with teams from various colleges around the country. The experience promises to challenge students' moral reasoning, raise their awareness of the importance of government accountability and open doors to a future career in government. For more details, visit - <http://www.agacgfm.org/challenge09/index.htm>.

This competition is only open to currently enrolled undergraduate college students. If you know college students in the area, encourage them to participate.

Standards-Setters' Changes and Challenges

By: Tom L. Allen, CPA

The information contained in this article is the unofficial view of one of the FASAB board members. Official positions of FASAB are determined only after extensive due process and deliberations.



While patience is a virtue, it is not an attribute that I have readily embraced as an accounting standards-setter for both the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board (FASAB). Rather, at times, I have been frustrated by what seems to be the slow pace of improved financial reporting for governments.

However, having recently participated in the GASB 25-year anniversary celebration, it is impressive to consider the progress made over that period. Sound financial reporting standards on the reporting entity, pensions and health care promises, revenue and expense recognition, accrual accounting and many others have positioned state and local governments to be able to better deal with changing economic circumstances. Some changing economics such as those experienced over the last few years have been significant, and difficult and painful decisions have had to be made by elected officials.

The value of good accrual-based accounting standards is that these elected officials and the taxpayers they represent are well-informed of both the short-term and the long-term financial impact of these difficult economic decisions. And the costs and benefits to each generation of taxpayers are measurable.

Congratulations GASB on a job well done despite strong resistance to change by some constituents. You are, however, still a work-in-process as performance-based information and better comparable cost of service information is needed before citizens can knowledgeably hold their elected and appointed officials fiscally accountable.

Changing technology and economic circumstances will always be a challenge to businesses as well as governments and I feel it is pretty safe to say that the pace of change will only accelerate. If one of today's teenagers were able to hop aboard a time machine and travel back in time to 1983, just prior to the creation of GASB, he would experience the Dow Jones Industrial Average making history by reaching the 1,100 mark for the first time, Motorola being the first mobile phone approved by the Federal Communications Commission in the U.S., the airing of the final episode of the television series *M*A*S*H*, former President Ronald Reagan signing a \$165 billion bailout for Social Security, and the introduction of the McDonald's Chicken McNugget and Microsoft Word. Typewriters were an indispensable tool in modern offices and call waiting, caller ID and the Internet were not yet mainstream, while instant messaging, texting and "social networking" were nowhere to be found.

While the "new kid on the block" as far as U.S. standards-setters is concerned, FASAB has been around for nearly two decades. In that time, FASAB has developed a solid framework for federal accounting and reporting that has gone a long way in improving accountability and transparency of federal financial information.

In a 1987 article, Chuck Bowsher, former Comptroller General of the United States, pointed to the following five shortcomings of federal financial management systems: lack of cost information; lack of reliable information on major weapons systems; inadequate disclosure of costs and liabilities, including the unfunded liabilities of Social Security; unstructured planning for capital investments; and antiquated systems.¹ These shortcomings noted more than 20 years ago are still very relevant today. I would submit that while much progress has been made in the area of federal financial management systems and their integration with external financial reporting, *much remains to be done.*

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Standards-Setters' Changes and Challenges

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This is one of the reasons why FASAB continues to focus heavily on such projects as fiscal sustainability, social insurance, the federal reporting entity and natural resources—there still remains much in the way of important information that should be conveyed to legislators so that they will be more equipped to make informed decisions about the long-term fiscal management of our country and to citizens so that they will be provided the information necessary to hold their elected and appointed officials fiscally accountable.

In the face of all of the new requirements that have been imposed by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, accountability and transparency of financial information, as well as the ability to report on that information, has become increasingly important. The need for robust systems and strong financial reporting standards cannot be overemphasized.

The American public is painfully aware of the use of taxpayer dollars beyond the traditional purpose of providing taxpayer services. With the current premium placed on timely and accurate financial information, FASAB will need to play a key role in ensuring that the effects of the government bailout activities are accurately reflected in the government's financial reports. It is critically important that the information be accurately reported and useful because of the long term implications of current financial decisions. In essence, if one purpose of financial reporting is to help citizens hold its government accountable, we as a board will be held accountable based on the clarity of the financial reporting that results from conformance with our standards (that is, every legislator and citizen should be informed about both the short-term and long-term financial impact of current period decisions).

Retirement and completion of appointed terms has resulted in the loss of key FASAB board members. Bob Reid retired from the U.S. Department of the Treasury at the end of 2008 and the terms of Jim Patton and John Farrell expired in June of 2009. Since joining the board, each of these three members have contributed significantly to improving the objectivity, integrity and independence of all of FASAB's ongoing projects, including FASAB's standards on social insurance, earmarked funds, fiduciary activities, heritage assets and stewardship land, as well as the soon to- be issued statement on sustainability reporting. I thank them for their outstanding service and dedication.

In August, the board welcomed incoming board members Michael Granof, Ph.D., CPA, and Scott Showalter, CGFM, CPA. Dr. Granof is the Ernst & Young Distinguished Centennial Professor of Accounting and a University Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Mr. Showalter is a retired partner at KPMG LLP and Teaching Professor at North Carolina State University. I am confident that Michael and Scott will help FASAB continue to work towards its ultimate goal of improving the transparency, accountability, and usefulness of federal financial accounting and reporting. (Reproduction from FALL 2009 JOURNAL OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT)

End Note

1. Charles A. Bowsher, MBA, CPA, Federal Financial Management: Evolution, Challenges, and the Role of the Accounting Profession, *Journal of Accountancy*, May 1987, pp. 287–288.

Tom L. Allen, CPA, is the chair of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Prior to joining FASAB, Allen served as the chair of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and the state auditor of Utah.

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President's Message

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Last, but not least, **Steven Steven Lam**, Senior Accountant, from the City of San Jose's International Airport. Their impressive resumes can be found by visiting our chapter web site at - <http://www.agasiliconvalley.org/officers.htm>. One commonality among them is that each one has special talents and skills to offer in furthering our chapter. We are glad and grateful to have all three of you to be part of this promising organization. Join us in welcoming David, Linda & Steven to our Chapter Executive Board!

FROM THE EDITOR:

Members are encouraged to send news articles for our Newsletter - **The Working Papers**. We also want to know what you are doing (i.e. promotion, new job, community service, etc.). Email your article(s) by the first day of the month to the Editor, Alex Guiang, at AGASiliconVal@sbcglobal.net.

THE CITY OF PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, HONORED AS THE FIRST CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE SEA AWARD RECIPIENT IN THE NATION

Improving Performance Reporting for Local Government

Alexandria, VA – Recognizing performance reporting excellence, the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) has honored the City of Palo Alto, CA, with a Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Award. A distinguished independent panel of government financial managers chose to honor the City of Palo Alto City Auditor's Office for their exceptional Accountability Report. This is the fifth consecutive year that the City of Palo Alto has received a national SEA award and the first entity in the nation to receive the Circle of Excellence award.



AGA established this award program in conjunction with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Foundation granted AGA funds to launch the Certificate of Excellence in Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Reporting Program. The program offers in-depth evaluation of SEA reports (also called performance reports), recommendations for improvements and recognition of excellent reports with a Certificate of Excellence. The SEA Program encourages issuing regular high-

quality service efforts and accomplishments reports and helps state and local governments effectively communicate performance to the public. The Circle of Excellence award recognizes those governments that have received the "GOLD" award (or the former award) for five or more consecutive years.

"This award for excellence should alert the tax-paying public, Congress, public interest groups and other financial management professionals that state and local government agencies are strenuously working to make the government more accountable," stated AGA Executive Director, **Relmond P. Van Daniker, DBA, CPA**. "Not only are they working hard, but they are also achieving these sought after goals," he said.

The number of state and local governments issuing such performance reports is increasing substantially following the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's release, in April 2003, of *Reporting Performance Information: Suggested Criteria for Effective Communication*. This book, which has come to be known as the Green Book, is a special report setting forth 16 non-authoritative suggested criteria and 11 good practices) to guide the preparation of such reports.

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City of Palo Alto – SEA Award Recipient

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Van Daniker said that governments issuing performance reports would like these reports to be not only complete and comprehensive, but also interesting, informative, and inviting to read. They would appreciate knowing if the report is fulfilling its purpose of effectively informing readers of the government's performance and if it is recognized as an "outstanding document."

The purpose of the reviews is to evaluate how well the government or other organization informs the public about its performance. The review is not intended to evaluate the quality of the government or its performance. Rather, the focus is entirely on the report's usefulness to the public and other decision-makers who have a stake in the effectiveness of the government's services and programs.

AGA honored the City of Palo Alto's team headed by City Auditor, **Lynda Flores Brouchoud**, at the award ceremony at the City Council meeting on Aug. 3, 2009. The ceremony was held in conjunction with Palo Alto's City Council meeting scheduled for 8:00 p.m. that evening. The SEA Crystal Award was presented to the City by AGA Regional Vice President **Alex Guiang**, and **Jerry Gandara**, Past AGA California Regional Vice President.

The 7th annual Service Efforts and Accomplishments (SEA) Report was prepared by the City Auditor's Office and was issued in January 2009. City Auditor, **Lynda Flores Brouchoud**, said, "The report is intended to be informational. It provides data about the costs, quality, quantity and timeliness of City services. It includes a variety of comparisons to other cities, and the results of a citizen survey. Our goal is to provide the City Council, staff, and the public with an independent, impartial assessment of past performance to strengthen public accountability, improve government efficiency and effectiveness, and support future decision-making."

To view the City of Palo Alto's Service Efforts and Accomplishments Report, visit - http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/depts/aud/service_efforts_and_accomplishments.asp.

Chapter Membership Drive

If you are not a member of AGA yet, you can sign-in as new member at this month's Professional Development Meeting or when you register to attend the meeting. You will then receive a \$20 or 21% discount on your membership dues. Once you sign-in as new member, you are entitled to pay the member's meeting registration rate, which is additional \$15 saving. Overall, you will save \$35.

In five meetings you will recoup your membership dues by paying only the member's registration fee. Take advantage of this month's membership drive. This is a good deal! See application form and member's benefits list, which are included in this Newsletter, and send an email to AGASiliconVal@sbcglobal.net.

AGA Silicon Valley Chapter

Chapter Executive Board Meeting - Minutes

July 7, 2009

In Attendance: Grace Salandanan, Gary Epstein, Jerry Gandara, Alex Guiang, Manju Beher, Steven Lam, David Bullock and Linda Hildebrant.

President, Grace Salandanan, called meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

New board members Steven Lam, David Bullock and Linda Hildebrant were asked to introduce themselves to the other members.

General Business:

1. Discussion of attendance at AGA Professional Development Conference in New Orleans and awards won by chapter were presented by Grace.
2. Board was asked to review chapter Mission Statement and Vision Statement and provide any feedback or thoughts they had for changes. Suggestion was made that the vision for the chapter needed to be broadened to include private industry that has government accountability because of their contracts. Those in the area that would meet this mandate would be GE, Solyndra, and Tesla Motors. Members were asked to provide potential names of other organizations so that contact can be made.
3. Gary Epstein presented the Treasurer's Report. Discussions followed regarding changing the rate structure and/or increasing the portion of the annual dues to the chapter. This amount is current \$5.00. This was tabled for further discussion.
4. July 16 ARRA Audio Conference. It was decided that the monthly chapter meeting scheduled for 7/23 would be cancelled, as two meetings in one month would affect attendance. Lunch for the meeting was discussed and decided to be hotdogs from Costco to minimize cost since attendee prices were only \$5.00 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. The cost to the club for the conference was \$250.
5. Chapter Recognition Program (CRP) requirements were presented to the board by Grace and Alex. The AGA National Office is very strict on filing due dates so meeting the 9/30/09, 12/31/09, 3/31/10 and 5/31/10 dates are critical to the chapter if we have intend to compete in the recognition awards given to chapters.
6. Chapter Newsletter will be transitional from Alex to Manju. Steven will serve as the back-up editor.
7. Jerry presented the board with the CGFM (Certified Government Financial Manager) plan (copy attached). Jerry is planning on starting study groups for those interested in pursuing the designation. It was suggested that the chapter purchase a set of the study books and copy for those attending the training. This plan, when submitted, provides the chapter 200 points toward the CRP levels.
8. Alex has prepared a chapter membership plan. Grace has provided a draft of this plan to Jessica Jones for review and input as to potential revisions. This plan, when submitted,

Board Meeting Minutes — (Continued from page 13)

- provides the chapter 200 points toward the CRP levels. As part of the chapter drive toward new membership, the plan is to participate in the San Jose State University career day.
9. Discussion followed regarding the Community Service Plan. The first event will be the San Jose State Career day and a coordinator is needed. Chris will be coordinating the event with Jerry as a back up. All members were asked to provide input about service opportunities for the chapter.
 10. Chapter education plan was discussed. Chapter will be inviting Delta Sigma Phi sorority at San Jose State University to attend a monthly professional development. It was suggested that we also look into inviting the Beta Alpha Si Sorority. On October 2, 2009 the chapter will host a One-day ARRA/GAAP/GAAS Seminar on reporting issues and implementing controls. The fee will be \$55 for members and \$75 for non-members. Meeting location will be the County of Santa Clara offices. A flyer will be distributed in August with details.
 11. With the cancellation of the July 23, meeting, the professional development meeting schedule needed to be amended. No August meeting is scheduled. Jerry Gandara will be the speaker for the 9/16 meeting. The ARRA seminar will be the October presentation. November will be held on 11/18 with guest speaker Byron McGinley from U.S. Defense Criminal Investigation Service.
 12. Discussion was also held around the idea of moving the monthly meetings from Thursday to Wednesday.
 13. The chapter social event that was originally schedule for July will be moved to the 3rd week of August. Grace will be hosting a summer BBQ for the August board meeting on 8/8.
 14. Consensus was received that the monthly board meetings would take place on the 2nd Saturday of each month over the next year with the meeting being held at the Denny's Restaurant in San Jose.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. (*Prepared & Submitted by: **Linda Hildebrant**, Chapter Secretary*)

AGA Silicon Valley Chapter Mission Statement

To serve government accountability professionals in the Silicon Valley, and surrounding areas, by providing quality continuing education and networking opportunities to foster professional development and certification.

Vision Statement

To serve and create value to our members by:

1. Providing quality educational opportunities
2. Promoting professional networking
3. Providing leadership opportunities - both local and national level
4. Fostering professional development and certification through the [CGFM program](#),
5. Supporting accounting standards and research to advance government accountability
6. Serving the community through our time and service

Visit AGA Silicon Valley Chapter Web Site: <http://www.agasiliconvalley.org/>

**Upcoming Chapter Professional Development Meetings
Mark your Calendar!**

October 2, 2009, Friday

One-day Training on GAAP, GASB, ARRA

November 18, 2009

Byron McGinley, Resident Agent in Charge
US Defense Criminal Investigative Service
Topic: Fraud & Investigation

January 12, 2009

AGA Northern California One Day Training on
Yellow Book, GAAS/GAS Updates & ARRA

**AGA Silicon Valley Chapter
Treasurer's Report
August 31, 2009**

Cash In Bank – June 2009	\$ 3,057
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Sources:

Meeting registration fee/Other	385
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Uses:

Meeting expenditures	423
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Cash In Bank – August 2009	\$ 3,019
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**Planning to attend the
September 16, 2009
Professional Development Meeting**

Make reservation by contacting:

Bill Brown, <mailto:william.brown@vta.org>
(408) 321-5648

Gary Epstein, <mailto:gary.epstein@vta.org>
(408) 321-5683

Remi Thomas, <mailto:remegia.thomas@vta.org>
(408) 952-4125

Cost: Member/Student/Retiree, \$25,
Nonmember, \$40

Food Selection:

1. Cobb Salad
2. Grilled Herb Chicken
3. Vegetarian Crepes

To cancel registration, please provide 24-hour notice to any of the contact persons above or you will be billed for a “no show”.

JOBS

Auditor - Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Bureau US-CA-San Jose, CA \$55,015.00+, closing date 9/26/09. www.usajobs.gov

Revenue & Tax Mgr. - City of Oakland, CA. \$10,205 - \$12,529/mo, www.oaklandnet.com